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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

THE

MILITARY ORDER

OF THE

LOYAL LEGION

OF THE

UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA:

1880.

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Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1865, *for*
THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES,
By Sam. B. Wylie Mitchell, M. D., Acting Recorder-in-Chief of said Order,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States,
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1880, by
JOHN P. NICHOLSON, Acting Recorder in Chief, M. O. L. L. U. S.
in the Office of the Librarian of Congress.

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CONSTITUTION.

PREAMBLE.

WE, OFFICERS AND HONORABLY DISCHARGED OFFICERS OF THE ARMY, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS OF THE UNITED STATES, whose names are hereunto annexed,—having aided in maintaining the honor, integrity and supremacy of the National Government, at a critical period of its history; and holding in remembrance the sacrifices in common made, and the triumphs together shared in the support of this sacred duty,—do unite in order to ordain and establish a permanent Association for the purpose, and objects hereinafter set forth. And to this end, pledge our honor, as officers and gentlemen, to be governed by the following Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I.

TITLE.

This Institution shall be known by the name, style and title of THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

ARTICLE II.

PRINCIPLES.

This Order acknowledges as its fundamental principles—

1st. A firm belief and trust in Almighty God; extolling Him under whose beneficent guidance the sovereignty and integrity of the Union have been maintained, the honor of the Flag vindicated, and the blessing of Civil Liberty secured, established and enlarged.

2d. True allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a paramount respect for and fidelity to the National Constitution and Laws, manifested by the discountenancing of whatever may tend to weaken loyalty, incite to insurrection, treason, or rebellion, or in any manner to impair the efficiency and permanency of our Free Institutions.

ARTICLE III.

OBJECTS.

The Objects of this Order shall be, to cherish the memories and associations of the war waged in defence of the unity and indivisibility of the Republic; to strengthen the ties of fraternal fellowship and sympathy formed from companionship-in-arms; to advance the best interests of the soldiers and the sailors of the United States, especially

of those associated as members of this Order, and to extend all possible relief to their widows and children; to foster the cultivation of Military and Naval Science; to enforce unqualified allegiance to the General Government; to protect the rights and liberties of American citizenship, and to maintain National Honor, Union and Independence.

ARTICLE IV.

ORGANIZATION.

The several constituted bodies of this Order shall be designated as *Commanderies*, and shall consist of—

1st. *State* Commanderies, to be known as "The Commandery of the State of_____."

2d. A *National* Commandery, to be known as "The Commandery-in-chief."

ARTICLE V.

MEMBERS.

The Members, or *Companions*, of this Order shall be of three (3) Classes:—

1st. Commissioned officers of the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps,—Regular and Volunteer,—who have been actually engaged in the suppression of the

Rebellion,—whether as a Commissioned Officer, Non-commissioned officer, Warrant officer, or Enlisted man.

The eldest male lineal descendants of deceased Companions of the First (1st) Class: and in default of such issue, then of their collateral branches in the order of genealogical succession.

2d. The eldest sons of living Companions of the First (1st) Class, provided they be twenty-one (21) years of age.

Upon the death of the Companion of the First (1st) Class, through whom eligibility of membership is derived, a Companion of the Second (2d) Class shall become a Companion of the First (1st) Class.

3d. Gentlemen in civil life, who, during the Rebellion, have been specially distinguished for conspicuous and consistent loyalty to the National Government, and who have been active and eminent in maintaining the supremacy of the same.

Also the following members *ex-officio* :—The President of the United States of America, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy.

ARTICLE VI.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

SECTION 1.—Every application for membership shall be

made in writing, signed by the applicant; and shall be recommended in writing by three (3) Companions of the Commandery to which he shall apply, who shall vouch for the candidate's eligibility. The application shall be referred by the Commander to a Committee of Investigation, consisting of three (3) Companions of the Order, none of whom shall be of the recommending Companions. If the applicant be a candidate for the First (1st) Class, the Committee shall ascertain the date of his appointment or muster into the United States service as a commissioned officer; and if discharged, the date of the same, and the reasons therefor. In all cases, they shall make a careful examination of his standing and moral character; and shall report in writing at the next stated meeting of the Commandery. After the reading of the report, the Commander shall formally request any Companion of the Order who has any objection to the report, or reasons against the election of the candidate, to then state the same if he so desire. Upon the adoption of the report,—the candidate must be balloted for if the report be unfavorable,—every Companion of the Order present, shall, unless excused by a vote of the Commandery, deposit one (1) ballot for or against the candidate. If he be a candidate for the First (1st) or Second (2d) Class, and

not more than two (2) black balls be deposited against him, he shall be declared duly elected: but if three (3) or more black balls be deposited against him, he shall be rejected and so declared. If he be a candidate for the Third (3d) Class, and one (1) black ball be deposited against him, he shall be rejected and so declared.

SEC. 2.—An application for membership may be withdrawn before report thereon; or after report and before ballot, if the report be favorable.

SEC. 3.—A Companion-elect of the First (1st) or the Second (2d) Class, before being admitted to the privileges of membership, shall subscribe to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Order; pay an admission fee of at least twenty-five dollars ($25.00), which shall entitle him, during membership, to a Diploma, Badge and Ribbon; be presented at one of the meetings of the Commandery, and there make the requisite declaration. But if he shall neglect, or refuse to comply with these conditions for the period of six (6) months, unless prevented by sickness or other unavoidable occurrence, his election may be declared null and void:—

Provided, That Companions-elect of the Order who may be stationed, or who may reside at a distance too great to be present at the stated meeting of their Commandery

next succeeding their election, and who are thus unavoidably prevented from complying in full with the above requirements, may, in lieu thereof, make in writing the requisite declaration of membership.

Sec. 4.—If a candidate for membership be rejected, he shall be forever after ineligible for proposal in any other Commandery of the Order; and not eligible in that in which he was rejected, until a period of three (3) years shall have elapsed from the date of his rejection: after which, in the event of the rejected candidate applying for membership, he shall comply in all particulars with the forms hereinbefore prescribed; and to be elected, must, when balloted for, be approved unanimously.

Sec. 5.—When the fact of the ineligibility of any candidate for membership of the Order shall be certified to, before the Council of any Commandery, by a Committee of Investigation duly appointed, it shall be duly and properly recorded; and a copy of such record shall be forwarded, through the proper channel, for the information and guidance of the several Commanderies.

ARTICLE VII.

MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1.—The right of a member to resign, or to

withdraw from the Commandery for any stated period of time, on application made as hereinafter directed, shall be given at any stated meeting,—two-thirds (⅔) concurring in the same: this, with the understanding, that, during such time, the Companion withdrawing shall not enjoy the rights and privileges of other members.

In case of the proposed resignation of a member, before the same shall be accepted, he shall return to the Commandery of which he is a member, his Diploma, Badge and Ribbon of the Order.

SEC. 2.—All applications for permission to resign or to withdraw from the Commandery, shall be made in writing and accompanied by a certificate from the Recorder, that all dues to the Order have been satisfied. But no member shall be permitted to resign or withdraw while charges are pending against him.

SEC. 3.—Membership shall be forfeited only for a violation of any of the obligations taken on entering the Order, or for other conduct unbecoming a gentleman and inconsistent with that of a man of honor. In such cases the Diploma, Badge and Ribbon, and all other property belonging to the individual as connected with this Order, shall be returned to the Commandery of which he is a member.

SEC. 4.—Commissioned officers of the Regular Army, Navy and Marine Corps, members of any Commandery, upon being ordered to a station where there is a Commandery with which they desire to affiliate, shall be entitled to a temporary transfer thereto, upon written application to their Commander, accompanied by a certificate from the Recorder that all dues to their Commandery have been satisfied; and during their absence they shall not be liable for dues to their Commandery.

Companions in Civil Life, changing their permanent residence to a place within the jurisdiction of any other Commandery, may, in like manner, receive a transfer.

In no case shall a Companion be exempt from his obligations to his Commandery, solely on account of absence therefrom.

SEC. 5.—In case of the death of a Companion, his heirs shall be entitled to retain possession of his Diploma, Badge and Ribbon.

ARTICLE VIII.

IMPEACHMENT OF MEMBERS.

SECTION 1.—If the conduct or character of any Companion of this Order shall be impeached, the accusing member shall prefer his charge in writing to the Council,

who shall notify the accused of the same; and if, after a due investigation, the Council consider the charge to be sustained, they shall report the case, with their decision, to the Commandery; notifying the accused of the time when the report is to be made. If the accused member shall fail to come forward and exculpate himself, he may be expelled by a vote of two-thirds (⅔) of the members of the Commandery present.

But no vote for the reprimand, suspension or expulsion of a Companion, shall be taken except at a stated meeting.

SEC. 2.—The dismissing, cashiering or dishonorable discharge from the service of the United States, of any officer who may be a Companion of this Order, shall constitute a sufficient ground for his expulsion without further investigation. If such officer shall be reinstated, he may thereafter resume his membership in the Order, there being then no objections existing to his so doing.

SEC. 3.—A member who has been expelled, may be reinstated only by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commandery at the next stated meeting after he shall petition in writing therefor.

ARTICLE IX.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

SECTION 1.—Companions of the Third (3d) Class in any

Commandery shall not exceed in number the ratio of one to thirty-three (1:33), to those of the First (1st) Class.

SEC. 2.—The Companions of the Third (3d) Class, shall not be liable for fees or dues. In consequence of which remission they shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting, or be eligible to any office of the Order: *unless* they elect to accept the financial obligations of Companions of the First (1st) and Second (2d) Class.

ARTICLE X.

MEMBERS–AT–LARGE.

The Diploma of Membership and the Insignia of the Order may be conferred upon any foreign officer, and also upon any gentleman who served on the general staff without a commission but who is otherwise eligible to membership, by a vote of the Congress of the Order; the necessary action to be taken by the Commandery-in-Chief; such Members-at-Large to be recognized as Companions of the First (1st) Class.

Members-at-Large may affiliate with any State Commandery, upon assuming the prescribed financial obligations thereof.

ARTICLE XI.

DIPLOMA OF MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1.—Every Diploma of Membership shall be signed by the Commander-in-Chief, and shall have the seal of the Order affixed thereto, and be attested by the Recorder-in-Chief.

SEC. 2.—The FORM OF THE DIPLOMA shall be as follows:—

No.—

In the Name and by the Authority of

(*COAT OF ARMS.*)

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF.

To all to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

KNOW YE, THAT _____

_____,

Having been specially distinguished for faithful services in maintaining the honor, integrity and supremacy of the Government of the United States of America, was received as a COMPANION OF THE _____ CLASS OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES, on the ____ day of _____, Anno Domini, _____ thousand _____ hundred and _____, through the Commandery of

the State of _____

In testimony whereof, the names of the proper Officers, and the Seal of the Order are hereunto affixed.

Given at Philadelphia, this day of _____, in the year of our Lord thousand hundred and _____, and of the Independence of the United States of America the _____, and of the Order the _____.

_____,

Commander-in-Chief.

Attest:—

_____,

Recorder-in-Chief.

ARTICLE XII.

DEATH OF MEMBERS.

Upon notice of the death of any Companion of the Order, the Commandery will be convened for the purpose of attending the funeral ceremonies.

The Companions, wearing the usual badge of mourning, will march in the order prescribed for such processions.

If agreeable to the family of the deceased, the coffin will be draped with the United States flag, and the pall supported by eight (8) Companions of the Order.

ARTICLE XIII.

OFFICERS.

SECTION 1.—The Officers of the *State* Commanderies shall be a Commander, a Senior Vice-Commander, a Junior Vice-Commander, a Recorder, a Registrar, a Treasurer, a Chancellor, a Chaplain, and a Council consisting of five (5) Companions—of which Board the other Officers shall be members *ex-officio*.

They shall be elected annually, as hereinafter directed.

SEC. 2.—The Officers of the *National* Commandery shall be a Commander-in-Chief, a Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, a Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, a Recorder-in-Chief, a Registrar-in-Chief, a Treasurer-in-Chief a Chancellor-in-Chief, a Chaplain-in-Chief, and a Council-in-Chief, consisting of five (5) Companions—of which Board the other Officers shall be members *ex-officio*.

They shall hold office during the term of four (4) years; or until their successors, respectively, shall be duly elected and invested.

ARTICLE XIV.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1.—It shall be the duty of the COMMANDER to preside at all meetings of the Commandery and of the Council; to enforce a strict observance of the Constitution and

By-Laws; to appoint all Officers and Committees not otherwise provided for; to sign all orders drawn upon the Treasurer for all sums necessary to defray the expenses, and for other appropriations made and passed at a stated meeting of the Commandery; and to perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage, or his charge, may require of him.

SEC. 2.—The VICE-COMMANDERS shall, when called upon, assist the Commander in the performance of his duties. The SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER is, in the event of the death, resignation, or absence of the Commander, his plenary representative. And in the event of the death, resignation, or absence of the Senior Vice-Commander, the JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER succeeds to all his powers and duties.

If none of the above-named Officers be present, a Commander *pro tempore* shall be appointed.

SEC. 3.—It shall be the duty of the RECORDER to keep in books provided for the purpose,—

1st. The *Constitution and By-Laws, Rules and Regulations* of the Order,—to be signed by every Companion on his becoming a member thereof.

2d. A *Register* of the members of the Commandery,

ruled to embrace every material fact relating to or growing out of their membership.

3d. A *Journal* of the proceedings of the Commandery, after the same have been corrected and approved.

4th. A *Letter-Book* of copies of all official letters sent and received.

5th. A *Ledger*, to contain the accounts of the Commandery with its members.

6th. A *Receipt-Book*, in which to take the Treasurer's receipts.

7th. A *Black-Book*, in which shall be recorded the names and rank in the service of all that, at any time, may be declared ineligible for membership in the Order; and also of those members who may have been expelled from any Commandery, together with the reasons therefor.

It shall be his duty to keep these books in readiness, at all times, for inspection by the Council; to keep all accounts between the Commandery and its members; to receive in trust all moneys of the Commandery, and pay the same without delay to the Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same. He shall attest all orders drawn upon the Treasurer for money ordered to be paid at a stated meeting, and none others, except those hereinafter specially provided for. He shall give due notice of all

meetings of the Commandery; and he shall furnish in the said notice the name, rank and command in the service, and address of each candidate for membership, together with his or their Recommenders, and the Committee of Investigation: and in the notices of the first stated meetings in May and November, he shall state the amount due by the Companion to whom issued. He shall conduct the correspondence of the Commandery; and shall notify the National Commandery and each State Commandery, from time to time as they may occur, of every admission and rejection, suspension and expulsion, resignation and withdrawal, restoration and death. He shall, at the last stated meeting in his term of office, make out for the Commandery a full report of all moneys received during his term, and also the arrearages of every member; and shall transfer to his successor in office, within two (2) weeks from the expiration of his term, all books, papers, or other property in his possession belonging to his office. He shall notify a family of a deceased Companion of the First (1st) Class, of the provisions of Article V., paragraph 2d: and shall perform such other duties as the Commandery, or his office, may require of him.

SEC. 4.—The REGISTRAR shall have the care and arrangement of the archives of the Commandery. He shall pro-

cure and keep a Register of all the Companions of the Order, each numbered according to Commandery and date of admission.

In the absence or disability of the Recorder, he shall officiate in his stead.

SEC. 5.—The TREASURER shall receive from the Recorder all moneys belonging to the Commandery; giving receipts for the same. He shall pay all orders signed by the Commander and attested by the Recorder, and none others; and must retain, in a book provided for the purpose, these orders as his vouchers. He shall keep fair and regular accounts of his receipts and expenditures; making a quarterly statement thereof. He shall perform such other duties as the Commandery, or his office, may require of him. He shall pay over and deliver to his successor in office, on the night of investure of said successor, all moneys, vouchers, books and papers belonging to the Commandery, in his hands at the close of his term of office. And for the faithful performance of his duty, shall give such security as the Commandery may direct.

SEC. 6.—The CHANCELLOR shall have the care and custody of the Seal of the Order, together with the Diploma-plate, Dies, Badges and Ribbon. He shall issue, on

proper requisitions, the Diploma of Membership and the Insignia of the Order; and shall keep in a book provided for the purpose, a full and complete record of the same.

In no case shall he issue a duplicate Diploma, Badge or Ribbon, except by a vote of the Commandery of which he is a member; based upon the statement, upon honor, by the applicant, that the original has been either lost or destroyed:—*Provided*, That a Companion receiving such duplicate, shall pay the actual cost of the same.

In the absence or disability of the Treasurer, he shall officiate in his stead.

SEC. 7.—It shall be the duty of the CHAPLAIN to open and close the meetings of the Commandery in the manner prescribed; and to perform such other duties as general custom may require of him.

SEC. 8.—The COUNCIL shall exercise a general inspection and control over all property belonging to the Commandery. They shall be constituted a standing Committee on Accounts: and shall audit and adjust the Commandery's books semi-annually, or oftener if required to do so; rendering reports of the same. They shall be authorized to grant warrants for all incidental expenses that may accrue. In dissensions between Companions, it shall be their duty to act as a Court of Honor for the just

and amicable settlement of the same: but where charges are preferred against a Companion, they shall be constituted a Court of Inquiry for the Commandery. They shall have power to fill vacancies in any of the offices of the Commandery, until the time of the next annual election.

They shall be empowered to appoint for Commandery Head-Quarters an *Orderly*, who must be an honorably discharged soldier, sailor, or marine.

ARTICLE XV.

REMOVAL OF OFFICERS.

Any Officer of the Order who shall neglect, or improperly perform, the duties incumbent upon him, may be removed by a vote of two-thirds (⅔) of the members of the Commandery present.

ARTICLE XVI.

MEETINGS.

SECTION 1.—The stated meetings of the several Commanderies of the Order shall be held monthly; unless any Commandery, by a two-thirds (⅔) vote, shall otherwise direct:—*Provided, however*, That every Commandery shall hold a meeting in the month of May of each year for the election of Officers.

SEC. 2.—Special meetings may be convened at the pleasure of the Commander, or at the written request of eight (8) members of the Commandery:—three (3) days' previous notice being given in every case.

SEC. 3.—Eight (8) members of the Commandery shall constitute a quorum at any meeting at which business is to be transacted.

ARTICLE XVII.

SECRECY.

SECTION 1.—The proceedings of the Order shall, as a general rule, be kept secret.

SEC. 2.—Any member who shall disclose the name of a Companion who has been instrumental in causing the rejection of any candidate for membership, or give information that may lead to such disclosure, shall be expelled from the Order. And the Commander shall cause the provisions of this law to be read immediately after the rejection of such application.

ARTICLE XVIII.

FUNDS.

SECTION 1.—Funds for defraying the current expenses of the Order, and for the relief of the unfortunate, shall be raised by an annual assessment of, at least, five dollars

($5.00) upon each Companion; which shall be paid in advance. But any Companion of the Order who shall pay, at one time, one hundred dollars ($100.00) over and above his admission fee, shall be exempt from the payment of all further dues.

SEC. 2.—All sums paid for the commutation of annual assessments, shall be transferred immediately to the Council for investment in United States or other approved securities.

ARTICLE XIX.

ARREARAGES.

SECTION 1.—Any Companion who may be in arrears at the time of holding the annual election for Officers, may, by a vote of a majority of the members of the Commandery present, be prohibited from voting, and be declared to be ineligible to any office until such dues shall be paid, or remitted by an order of the same.

SEC. 2.—Any Companion who may be one (1) year or more in arrears at the first stated meeting in April, shall be specially notified of the fact; and if the same be not paid within a reasonable time thereafter, the Commandery may, by a vote of two-thirds (⅔) of the members present, suspend the Companion until such arrearages shall be paid, or duly remitted.

SEC. 3.—If the Companion shall neglect or refuse to pay such arrears, he may be dropped from the roll by order of a majority of the members of the Commandery present; unless it shall appear that the delinquency has occurred through unavoidable disability,—in which case the Commandery may remit the whole, or any portion thereof. Companions so dropped from the roll may, however, be reinstated, upon the payment of such arrears; unless remitted as hereinbefore provided.

ARTICLE XX.

RELIEF.

SECTION 1.—Every Companion who has been a member of this Order for one (1) year and has conformed to its laws, shall, in case of misfortune and distress, be entitled to such relief as may be deemed expedient.

SEC. 2.—The widow and the children of a deceased Companion shall be entitled to such relief as the Companion, if living, would have enjoyed.

ARTICLE XXI.

RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Immediately after the installation of the Officers-elect, the Council shall, by and with the approval of the Com-

mandery, appoint eight (8) Companions, who shall constitute a *Relief Committee* for the ensuing year.

All applications for relief shall be referred to such Committee.

The Committee shall be empowered to order temporary assistance only in cases which will admit of no delay; and shall immediately report the fact to the Council. The expenses for such assistance shall be paid by an order on the Treasurer, approved by the Council. But the said Committee shall draw no other orders upon the Treasurer, except by a resolution of the Commandery.

ARTICLE XXII.

STATE COMMANDERIES.

SECTION 1.—To further its designs, this Order shall, as far as it is consistent with its principles and objects, institute Commanderies in all the States of the Union.

State Commanderies shall be organized as the result of an application signed by, at least, thirteen (13) Companions of the Order, made to the Commandery-in-Chief, or if such body be not already established, then to the Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania; and granted by a two-thirds (⅔) vote of the same. The Charter for which shall be at once issued.

SEC. 2.—The FORM OF CHARTER shall be as follows:—

In the Name and by the Authority of

(*COAT OF ARMS.*)

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF.

To all and singular to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

KNOW YE, that our worthy Companions, _____ _____,

_____ _____, _____ _____, _____ _____,

_____ _____, _____ _____, _____ _____,

_____ _____, _____ _____, _____ _____,

_____ _____, _____ _____, _____ _____,

are hereby authorized and empowered to institute, organize and establish a Commandery in _____, to be known as THE COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF _____, OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

WITNESS the name of the Commander-in-Chief, and the Seal of the Order, attested by the Recorder-in-Chief, at Philadelphia, this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord _____ thousand _____ hundred and _____, and of the

Independence of the United States of America the _____ ,
and of the Order the _____.

_____ ,

Commander-in-Chief.

Attest :—

_____ ,

Recorder-in-Chief.

SEC. 3.—Upon issuing the Charter to any Commandery, the Commander-in-Chief shall direct at what time and place the same shall be organized; and the Officers then chosen shall enter on their duties at once, and hold their offices until the annual meeting. All Officers shall subsequently be selected at the annual meeting. They shall be chosen by ballot, by a majority of all the valid votes given; and should no candidate receive a majority of all the votes polled at the first ballot, then the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped, and so on at each successive ballot. The Companions so elected shall enter upon office at the next stated meeting after their election, and shall hold the same, until their successors, respectively, shall be duly elected and invested.

SEC. 4.—Each Commandery shall have power to adopt

whatever Rules and Regulations may be deemed necessary for its own special government:—*Provided*, That the same do not in any way conflict with or impair any part or portion of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Order.

SEC. 5.—Each Commandery shall make a full report of its condition, accompanied by a general history of its proceedings, to the Commandery-in-Chief annually in May.

ARTICLE XXIII.

COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF.

SECTION 1.—The Commandery-in-Chief shall consist of the ex-Commanders and Commanders of the several Commanderies, and also of such other distinguished Companions of the Order as the Commandery-in-Chief may elect.

SEC. 2.—The duties of the Officers of the Commandery-in-Chief shall be as prescribed in Article XIV., of the Constitution,—for State Commanderies.

SEC. 3.—All legislative power, except the proviso contained in this Section, and that elsewhere reserved to the subordinate Commanderies, shall be vested in the Congress of the Order; chief executive and supreme judicial power, in the Commandery-in-Chief:—

Provided, That when a contingency shall arise, which

shall in all honor and fair dealing seem to the Commandery-in-Chief to demand instant and imperative action, it may, with the approval of a majority of the several State Commanderies, adopt measures to meet the contingency, which shall be binding until the next meeting of the Congress.

SEC. 4.—The Commandery-in-Chief, shall, in the name and by the authority of the Order, issue all Diplomas of Membership and Charters for the institution of new Commanderies.

SEC. 5.—In order that the several Commanderies shall be brought into as direct communication as possible, it shall be the duty of the Commandery-in-Chief to have each Commandery notified of any new organization that may have been effected; which, on the receipt of such official information, shall communicate, with the least possible delay, with the new Commandery, tendering greetings on its entrance into the Order.

SEC. 6.—The Head-Quarters of the Commandery-in-Chief of the Order shall be in the City of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania: at which place it shall assemble, at least, once in every two (2) years. The Council-in-Chief shall meet, at least, annually: its members may be represented by letter.

SEC. 7.—The actual and necessary expenses of the Commandery-in-Chief shall be provided for by a *pro rata* assessment upon each State Commandery, according to the number of the members in such Commandery.

ARTICLE XXIV.

CONGRESS OF THE ORDER.

SECTION 1.—A Congress of the Order, to be composed of three (3) Representatives from each and every Commandery, shall assemble at least once in every four (4) years, on the Wednesday next following the 9th day of April, in such place as may be designated by the preceding Congress; and shall act on whatever business may be laid before it.

SEC. 2.—Commanderies unable to be represented by their own special delegation, shall be required to select as substitutes a full delegation from another, or other Commanderies of Companions not delegated from their own Commandery; who shall, in all matters appertaining to the Congress, enjoy the rights and privileges of other Representatives.

ARTICLE XXV.

COAT OF ARMS OF THE ORDER.

The Coat of Arms of the Order shall be:—

Arms.—Gironné, (symbolical of unity,) of thirty-four gules and argent, (representing the number of States forming the National Government at the commencement of the Rebellion,) a twisted pillar irradiated in pale or, environed by an orl or clouds proper. (v. Exodus XIII. 21-22.)

Crest.—Upon a wreath argent and gules,—a hemisphere or, charged with the legend AMERICA in letters azure; thereon the National Eagle in the position of defense proper; all within thirteen étoiles of eight points arch wise of the first, on a field of the fourth.

Supporters.—Dexter; A soldier under arms, his dexter hand supporting a lance—therefrom flying the Standard of the United States: Sinister; A sailor equipped for general quarters, his sinister hand supporting a pike—thereon hoisted the National Flag:—all proper. The equipage of each as prescribed by the Regulations of 1861 and 1865, for the government respectively of the Army and the Navy.

Motto.—LEX REGIT, ARMA TUENTUR,—in letters argent, charged upon a scroll purpure. (v. Frontispiece.)

ARTICLE XXVI.

SEAL OF THE ORDER.

The Seal of the Order shall be one-and-three-tenths

($\frac{13}{10}$) inches in diameter, and shall consist of the CREST, as hereinbefore blazoned, the letters—MDCCCLXV.—in base; the whole encircled by a band one-eighth ($\frac{1}{8}$) of an inch wide, thereon the legend—SEAL OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES. (v. page 38.)

ARTICLE XXVII.

INSIGNIA OF THE ORDER.

SECTION 1.—The INSIGNIA of the Order shall consist of the *Badge* pendant, by a link and a ring of gold, from the *Ribbon*.

SEC. 2.—The BADGE of the Order shall be as follows:—

Obverse.—A Cross of eight (8) points gold; cantoned with rays of gold—forming a Star: its long diameter one-and-three-tenths ($\frac{13}{10}$) inches, its short diameter eight-tenths ($\frac{8}{10}$) of an inch. The Cross enameled azure; charged with a smaller cross of like proportions, enameled white and edged with gold. In the centre thereof, within a circle four-tenths ($\frac{4}{10}$) of an inch in diameter, enameled gules, the National Eagle displayed gold. On the circle, gold, one-tenth ($\frac{1}{10}$) of an inch wide, the motto—LEX REGIT, ARMA TUENTUR.—in relievo. (v. page 40.)

Reverse.—The Star as above described. In the centre thereof within a circle four-tenths ($\frac{4}{10}$) of an inch in diam-

eter, enameled gules, two (2) sabres in saltire, their points in base; surmounted by a fasces pale-wise, ensigned with the Phrygian Cap: environed in chief with an arch of thirteen (13) stars; in base, a wreath of laurel:—all of gold. On the circle, gold, one-tenth ($\frac{1}{10}$) of an inch wide, the legend—M. O., LOYAL LEGION, U. S.—MDCCCLXV.—in relievo. (v. page 41.)

SEC. 3.—The reverse of the *link* of each Badge shall bear an engraved number, corresponding to that of the registered number of the Companion to whom issued. (v. page 41.)

SEC. 4.—The RIBBON of the Order shall be of watered silk, one-and-one-half ($\frac{15}{10}$) inches wide.

For Companions of the First (1st) Class,—a *red* ribbon eight-tenths ($\frac{8}{10}$) of an inch wide, bordered with white and edged with blue; each three-and-one-half-tenths ($\frac{7}{20}$) of an inch wide. (v. page 40.)

For Companions of the Second (2d) and the Third (3d) Class—a *blue* ribbon eight-tenths ($\frac{8}{10}$) of an inch wide, bordered with white and edged with red; each three-and-one-half-tenths ($\frac{7}{20}$) of an inch wide. (v. page 41.)

ARTICLE XXVIII.

UNIFORM OF THE ORDER.

SECTION 1.—On occasions of ceremony, the Companions of the Order may wear the uniform of their respective arm and grade whilst in the service:—subject to such regulations as may hereafter be enjoined.

The INSIGNIA of the Order shall be worn conspicuously, and only on the centre of the left breast:—*Except*, That Officers and ex-Officers of the Order, when in uniform or full-dress, may wear the Badge, suspended by the Ribbon, round the neck.

SEC. 2.—When not on duty as Companions of the Order, the members may wear on the left lapel of the coat, one (1) inch from the top of the lapel, parallel thereto, and one-half (½) of an inch from the front edge of the same, the prescribed Ribbon of their respective Classes. Or, in lieu thereof, Officers and ex-Officers may wear a rosette, and other Companions a knot, of the prescribed Ribbon, and pattern, in the upper button-hole of the left lapel of the coat.

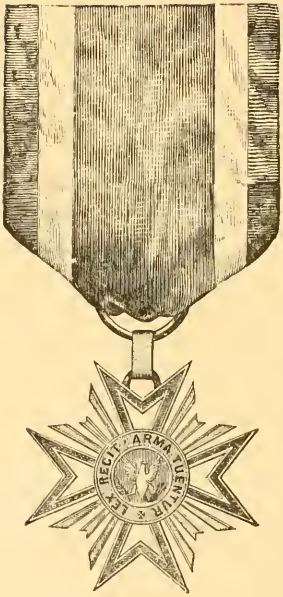
ARTICLE XXIX.

AMENDMENTS.

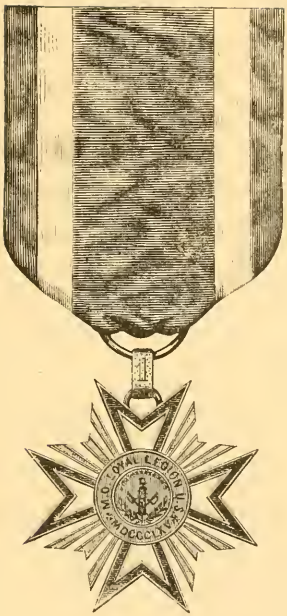
No alteration, addition, or amendment shall be made to this Constitution, unless agreed to by three-fourths (¾)

of the whole number of Commanderies represented in the Congress of the Order.

INSTITUTED APRIL 15th, 1865.



"OBVERSE."



"REVERSE."

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

INSTALLATION OF MEMBERS.

The Companion-elect being formally presented at a stated meeting of a Commandery, shall, then and there, make a declaration, upon honor, that he will maintain the Constitution of the Order, and conform to all its By-Laws, Rules and Regulations; and will use his best endeavors to promote its objects and advance its interests.

ARTICLE II.

INVESTURE OF OFFICERS.

A Companion elected to any office in the Order, before being invested with the authority of the same, shall make a formal declaration, upon honor, that he will—well and faithfully—perform the duties of the office on which he is about to enter; and comply with all the established laws and usages of the Order.

ARTICLE III.

DUTIES OF THE ORDERLY

The *Orderly* shall keep the Commandery Head-Quarters in good order; and shall perform such other duties pertaining to his office, as may be required of him by the Council.

As a compensation for his services, he shall receive a fixed annual salary, payable quarterly.

ARTICLE IV.

FINES.

SECTION 1.—The fundamental principles of this Order being recognized as its only test of loyal citizenship, the discussion or introduction of sectarian or partisan topics within the precincts of a Commandery, is prohibited:—this, under a penalty of such fine, not less than fifty dollars ($50.00), as may be imposed by order of the Council.

SEC. 2.—All other violations or neglects of duty may be fined at the option of the Commandery.

ARTICLE V.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

At stated meetings, the business shall be conducted in the following order:—

1. At the time appointed, the Commander shall take the chair and call the Commandery to order.

2. The Recorder may call the Roll of Members.

3. The Chaplain shall pronounce the opening prayer.

4. The Minutes of the last stated, and all subsequent meetings, shall be read and disposed of.

5. Companions-elect shall be installed.

6. The stated business of the meeting, if any, shall be considered.

7. Unfinished business shall be taken up.

8. Reports of Officers and Committees shall be heard.

9. Written communications shall be presented.

10. Candidates for membership shall be balloted for.

11. Applications for membership shall be received.

12. Admission fees and semi-annual dues of Companions shall be called for payment.

13. New business may be introduced.

14. The Recorder shall register the names of the Companions present.

15. The Chaplain shall pronounce the closing prayer.

16. Adjournment.

ARTICLE VI.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS.

SECTION 1.—The general rules of the United States

House of Representatives, as far as applicable, shall govern the transactions of the Commanderies.

SEC. 2.—All official orders, communications, records and proceedings, of whatever character, shall conform as nearly as possible to the general regulations, usages and customs of the military service of the United States.

ARTICLE VII.

THE ACTING COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF OF THE ORDER.

Until the 4th day of July, 1876, the Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania shall act as the Commandery-in-Chief of the Order.

But if on the date above specified, the Commandery-in-Chief of the Order be not organized, the said Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania shall continue to exercise said functions until the organization of the Commandery-in-Chief shall have been effected.

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENTS.

No alteration, addition, or amendment, shall be made to these By-Laws, unless agreed to by three-fourths (¾) of the whole number of Commanderies represented in the Congress of the Order.

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

THE

MILITARY ORDER

OF THE

LOYAL LEGION

OF THE

UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA:

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